

THREE NEW NORTH AMERICAN ANTS

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BY

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THREE NEW NORTH AMERICAN ANTS

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Two of the ants described below were collected by scouts of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology, while making a survey to obtain information on the distribution of the Argentine ant. The other species, an interesting form of *Lasius*, was sent to me for identification by Professors Claude Wakeland and W. E. Shull of the Entomology Department of the University of Idaho.

Lasius (*Cthonolasius*) *pilosus* sp. nov.

Worker.—Length, 3.3–3.7 mm.

Head, excluding the mandibles, very slightly longer than broad, with faintly convex sides, and straight or faintly emarginate posterior border. Eyes moderate in size, oval, placed on the side of the head at a distance from the base of the mandibles equivalent to about three times their greatest diameter. Antennal scapes noticeably surpassing the posterior corner of the head. Maxillary palpi 6-segmented, the last three segments successively diminishing in length. Base of epinotum shorter than the declivity, which it meets in a well rounded angle. Petiole seen from the side low, inclined forward, convex in front, flattened behind; viewed from behind, with rounded superior border, which not only lacks the usual central emargination but also appears to be highest here; the superior border not noticeably flattened antero-posteriorly to form a thin margin as with some of the closely related species.

Pubescence fine, appressed, abundant over all parts of the body, but apparently less conspicuous on the thorax. Pilosity rather long, erect, covering all parts of the body, even the eyes and appendages, and on the margin of the petiole forming a rather distinct fringe.

Color slightly variable, ranging from a light brownish yellow to a brownish yellow.

Type locality: Moscow, Idaho.

Described from four workers collected by Professor W. E. Shull on Moscow Mountain, April 17, 1929. Professor Shull is of the opinion that he collected the workers at an altitude of 3,500 feet from a much decayed fir stump on the southern slope of this mountain. Cotypes are in the collections of the United States National Museum, the Department of Entomology, University of Idaho, and my collection.

Dr. W. M. Wheeler, who has studied several of the workers, agrees with me that the ants belong to the subgenus *Cthono-*

lasius and represent either the workers of his *Lasius vestitus* (originally described from a single female specimen taken at Moscow, Idaho, by Dr. J. M. Aldrich) or that of a distinctly new species.

The workers differ from those of *Lasius umbratus mixtus* var. *aphidicola* Walsh in the following particulars: (1) Their smaller size, (2) the longer and more erect hairs on the gaster, (3) the presence of erect hairs on their appendages and petiole, and (4) the shorter, blunter, and more rounded petiole.

From the workers of *Lasius umbratus* subsp. *minutus* Emery, to which they bear perhaps the most striking superficial resemblance, the workers can be distinguished by the following characters: (1) The presence of erect hairs on their legs and scapes, (2) lighter color, and (3) shorter, thicker, and more rounded petiole.

Wheeler's description of the female of *Lasius vestitus* is very suggestive of the workers of this new species, especially his reference to the occurrence of abundant erect hairs over all parts of the body, and to a distinct fringe of hairs on the petiole. In addition, the petiole is similarly low, rounded, and blunt. Whether or not the species here described is *vestitus* will be settled when both workers and queens are taken together.

***Pheidole sciophila semilaevicephala* var. nov.**

Soldier.—Length, 2.5–3 mm.

Head, excluding mandibles, a little longer than broad; with broadly and angularly excised posterior border, and rounded occipital lobes; occipital furrow narrow, extending as far forward as the posterior margin of the antennal scapes. Clypeus with a median carina, as well as a notch in the center of its anterior border. Frontal area triangular, impressed. Antennal scapes curved and flattened at the base, slightly enlarged distally. Thorax, viewed from above, with prominent angular humeri. Pro-mesonotal suture fairly distinct; meso-epinotal constriction well pronounced. Thorax in lateral profile with a distinct transverse impression on the mesonotum. Epinotum with subequal base and declivity. Spines prominent but not strikingly acute. Superior border of petiole marginate. Postpetiole very strikingly broader than long, with somewhat rounded angular sides. Gaster smaller than the head.

Mandibles shining, coarsely punctate. Clypeus, frontal area, almost the entire posterior half of the head, and gaster smooth and shining. Anterior half of head rugulose-punctate. Thorax, petiole, and postpetiole opaque, densely punctate.

Hairs slightly yellowish; of varying length, but long; rather sparsely scattered over all parts of the body, even on the gula of the head.

Very dark brown; mandibles, anterior third of head, funiculi, and legs lighter; gaster black.

Type locality: Yuma, Arizona.

This description is based on six soldiers collected by Mr. L. C. Murphree at Yuma, Arizona, November 26, 1932, from a nest in the soil beneath a railroad shed. Cotypes are in my collection and in the collection of the United States National Museum.

The soldiers differ from those of *sciophila* in the following characters: (1) The rather smooth and shining posterior portion of the head, (2) the more rounded occipital lobes, (3) the presence of a median carina on the clypeus, and (4) the somewhat darker color.

***Aphaenogaster texana macrospina* subsp. nov.**

Worker.—Length, 4.3–4.6 mm.

Head, excluding mandibles, much longer than broad; sides faintly convex, appearing almost subparallel in the region of the eyes; behind the eyes gradually narrowing to form a broadly rounded posterior border, the extreme base of which bears a slightly elevated flange. Eyes large and prominent, strongly convex, situated more than their greatest diameter from the base of the mandibles.

Thorax of the usual configuration. Viewed in lateral profile the posterior half of the mesonotum appears strongly flattened or constricted, thus forming a prominent depression, which is especially acute in the region of the deep meso-epinotal constriction. Epinotum with the base longer than the declivity, bearing at the junction of the surfaces a pair of abnormally large, tapering spines, which are directed upward at an angle of approximately 45 degrees; the spines are easily as long as the declivity of the epinotum, but not quite so long as its basal length. Legs long and slender. Anterior surface of the petiole concave, viewed posteriorly the superior surface of the petiole faintly emarginate; postpetiole apparently as high as long, forming a broadly rounded, obtuse angle.

Frontal area, extreme posterior portion of the head, pronotum, pleura of the prothorax, legs, infraspinal area, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster, all rather smooth and shining. Thorax faintly reticulate-punctate, with weak transverse rugulae on the base of the epinotum.

Hairs yellowish, fairly long and coarse, scattered rather sparsely over all parts of the body. Pubescence short; closely appressed, most easily discernible on the antennae, legs, and gaster.

Ferruginous brown; antennae and legs lighter, gaster darker.

Type locality: The Navy Yard, Charleston, South Carolina.

The description here given is based on four cotype specimens, all workers, which were collected by Mr. D. E. Read on the surface of the ground in the Navy Yard, at Charleston, South

Carolina. Three of the cotype specimens have been deposited in the United States National Museum, the other is in my personal collection.

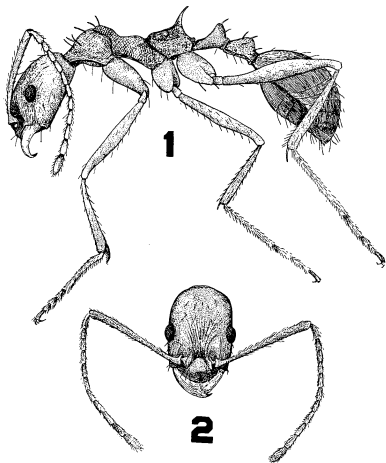


FIG. 1. Lateral view of worker of *Aphaenogaster texana macrospina* subsp. nov.

FIG. 2. Frontal view of worker's head.

(All greatly enlarged. Illustrations by Mrs. Eleanor A. Carlin, of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology)

That this subspecies is related to *Aphaenogaster texana* and its various forms is clearly indicated by the following characters of the worker: (1) The shape of the head, (2) the length and form of the antennae, (3) the prominence of the eyes, (4) the general contour of the thorax, and other similarities. The new subspecies shows its distinctness from *texana* and its forms in the peculiar sculpturing of the body, but more especially in the shape and size of its epinotal spines.